

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on February 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Sue Malek (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 201, 2/7/2017; SB 273, 2/17/2017; SB 277, 2/17/2017; SB 299, 2/17/2017, SJ 18, 2/20/2017

Executive Action: SJ 18, Do Pass As Amended; SB 164, Do Pass As Amended; SB 210, Motion Withdrawn

00:00:48 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON SB 273

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:29 Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 273, Revise civil liability laws related to common carrier pipelines.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:59 Chuck Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:06:45 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association

00:11:21 Gary Forrester, WBI Energy

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:12:41 Sen. McNally

00:13:21 Sen. Moore

00:13:44 Sen. McNally

00:14:37 Mr. Forrester, WBI Energy

00:15:11 Sen. McNally

00:15:36 Mr. Denowh, UPOM

00:16:06 Sen. Barrett

00:17:10 Sen. Moore

00:17:14 Sen. Barrett

00:17:20 Sen. Moore

Closing by Sponsor:

00:17:49 Sen. Moore

HEARING ON SB 277

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:20:08 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 277, Prohibit use of alternative energy loan account for virtual net metering.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:22:08 Jeff Fox, policy manager, Renewable Northwest (RN)

00:23:30 Ella Smith, Northern Plains Resource Council

Informational Testimony:

00:26:15 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)
00:26:40 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:27:10 Sen. Barrett
00:28:00 Mr. Fox, RN
00:29:38 Sen. Barrett
00:32:18 Sen. Richmond
00:33:02 Sen. Tempel
00:35:22 Mr. Hardy, MECA
00:35:58 Sen. McNally
00:36:37 Mr. Hardy
00:37:10 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
00:37:41 Sen. Barrett
00:37:58 Ms. Nowakowski, LSD
00:38:32 Sen. Barrett
00:39:59 Sen. Richmond

Closing by Sponsor:

00:41:12 Sen. Richmond

HEARING ON SJ 18

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:42:34 Sen. Mark Blasdel (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on SJ 18, Joint resolution supporting policies for advanced transmission lines.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:43:20 Brad Johnson, Public Service Commission (PSC)
00:46:29 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:48:26 Sen. Regier
00:48:56 Mr. Johnson, PSC
00:49:26 Sen. Connell
00:52:42 Mr. Johnson
00:52:47 Sen. Malek
00:55:09 Mr. Johnson

Closing by Sponsor:

00:55:47 Sen. Blasdel

00:56:13 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON SB 299

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:56:36 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 299, Generally revise hydraulic fracturing disclosure.

[EXHIBIT\(ens38a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:05:32 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:11:25 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:19:57 Sen. Richmond

01:23:37 Chair Ankney

01:24:15 Brief Recess

01:33:49 Reconvened

01:33:51 Vice Chair Connell assumed the role as the chair.

01:33:52 Sen. Kary left the hearing.

HEARING ON SB 201

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:34:11 Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 201, Allow for aggregate net metering.

01:34:13 Sen. Ankney entered the hearing and resumed the role as the chair.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:36:33 Matt Jacobs, self

01:38:41 Becky Weed, self

[EXHIBIT\(ens38a02\)](#)

01:41:01 Orion Thornton, OnSite Energy

01:43:27 Richard Parks, self

[EXHIBIT\(ens38a03\)](#)

01:45:34 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:47:29 John Alke, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

01:53:35 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities Resources

Informational Testimony:

01:55:33 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

01:55:58 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:56:26 Sen. Tempel

01:56:56 Sen. Hinkle

01:57:29 Mr. Jacobs, self

01:58:20 Sen. Connell

01:59:05 Mr. Rosquist, PSC

01:59:40 Sen. Connell

02:00:00 Mr. Alke, NWE

Closing by Sponsor:

02:00:52 Sen. Hinkle

02:03:04 Chair Ankney

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 18

02:03:49 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SJ 18 DO PASS.**

02:03:51 **Motion:** Sen. K. Regier moved that **SJ 18 BE AMENDED.**

[EXHIBIT\(ens38a04\)](#)

Discussion:

02:04:22 Sen. Regier

02:04:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Kary voted by proxy.

02:04:35 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SJ 18 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

02:04:36 Sen. Malek

02:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Kary voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 210

02:06:26 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 210 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

02:07:13 Chair Ankney

02:08:02 Sen. Malek

02:08:42 Without objection Sen. Connell withdrew the **DO PASS Motion.**

Discussion:

02:09:00 Sen. McNally

02:09:21 Sen. Malek

02:09:29 Sen. McNally

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 164

02:09:56 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 164 DO PASS.**

02:10:39 **Motion:** Sen. K. Regier moved that **SB 164 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(ens38a05)

02:10:57 Sen. Regier

02:13:22 Sen. Connell

02:13:57 Sen. Regier

02:14:10 Sen. Barrett

02:14:50 Sen. Connell

02:15:17 Sen. Malek

02:15:39 Sen. McNally

02:15:55 Chair Ankney

02:16:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Kary voted by proxy.

02:16:30 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. K. Regier moved that **SB 164 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Kary voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

02:17:51 Chair Ankney

02:18:16 Sen. Barrett

02:18:30 Sen. Connell

02:18:44 Sen. Regier

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02:18:55	Chair Ankney
02:19:17	Sen. Connell
02:19:37	Chair Ankney

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:30 PM

Charlene Devine, Secretary

cd

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens38aad.pdf](#))